

Coal is a critical component of our economy and our energy supply, but unfortunately coal is also a major contributor to climate change. We must find a way to maintain our energy production while decreasing our carbon emissions. Carbon sequestration will be key to that effort.

Carbon sequestration refers to taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and storing it so that the gas does not re-enter the atmosphere. Right now, companies and governments around the world are enhancing natural carbon storage sources by planting trees and advocating no-till agriculture, among many other activities. But we are still not even close to slowing the increase in greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

Eventually, technology may allow us to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and funnel it underground in long-term, airtight storage areas. But there are many obstacles to the development of technologies and methods that can significantly decrease CO₂ levels in our atmosphere. For example, we still don't know enough about the long-term stability, safety, and reliability of aquifers, coal seams, and other geological formations for CO₂ storage. Nor are we familiar with the technologies to accomplish this on the scale needed to truly decrease global carbon levels.

My legislation will build upon DOE's current carbon capture and storage program created in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It will improve DOE's regional carbon sequestration partnerships and create seven test projects across the country to learn more about the economics and design of carbon capture and storage technology. It will also help ensure that DOE has the necessary funds to conduct this cutting-edge research.

Although it is already too late to stop the climate from changing, carbon capture and storage—in conjunction with smart energy policies—can help minimize the impact of climate change on future generations.

We must not view taking action against global warming as bringing doom and gloom to industry. Making the right choices about how to address climate change can lead to new technological innovations, a boom in American jobs, and a strengthened economy. But we must begin to make these choices now by investing in the research and development of carbon capture and storage technologies that can address the climate change challenge.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, had I been present on rollcall No. 226 and rollcall No. 227, I would have voted "yea" and "yea."

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE UNIVERSITY'S ROTC PRO-
GRAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great source of pride for my alma mater, South Carolina State University, and our nation's military. The SC State Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) celebrates its 60th anniversary on April 20, 2007. This tremendous program, known as the Bulldog Battalion, has commissioned nearly 2,000 officers in the armed forces, and it has produced nine Army Generals, two Marine Corps Generals and one Air Force General, while contributing a significant number of highly qualified and dedicated soldiers to our nation's military.

Among SC State's notable ROTC graduates are Major General Abraham Turner, a 1976 graduate, who served as the Commanding Officer of Fort Jackson, the Army's largest training base in my hometown of Columbia, South Carolina. Second Lieutenant Jerrette Lee, class of 1983, was chosen during his senior year for the coveted Hughes Award, becoming the first African American and graduate of a Historically Black College or University to receive the honor granted to the top ROTC graduate of the year.

Another proud Bulldog Battalion graduate, Colonel Stephen Twitty, led an infantry battalion into Iraq during the early stages of the war on August 18, 2003. His leadership earned him the Silver Star medal for valor.

The remarkable record of the SC State ROTC is due in part to its rich history and tradition. The program was established in 1947 for the purpose of training infantry officers for the United States Army. In 1949, the program graduated its first class with five of the six graduates receiving Army commissions and the sixth joining the Army Reserves.

In 1954, the program expanded its mission beyond producing only infantry officers. Instead, the ROTC became a General Military Science Program, which enabled graduates to serve in any branch of the Army for which they qualified. From 1947 until 1968, all freshman and sophomore male students were required to enroll in the ROTC program at SC State. Since I am a 1961 graduate, I had the privilege of being part of this tremendous Bulldog Battalion program.

In 1968, SC State partnered with Claflin University, Voorhees College, Orangeburg Technical College and Denmark Technical College to provide ROTC training through SC State's program. The program expanded again in 1972 to allow female cadets to enter for the first time. Today, a total of 254 women have graduated from SC State's ROTC.

Graduates of this prestigious program have participated in every military conflict from World War I to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, representing America with great skill and honor. Today the Bulldog Battalion averages an enrollment of 100 cadets.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring South Carolina State University's ROTC program on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. It is my great privilege to have experienced this wonderful

ROTC program firsthand and to congratulate the program and its graduates today for their extraordinary contributions to our country. America owes a debt of gratitude to South Carolina State for supporting this extraordinary tradition of military excellence and to its graduates for making their alma mater and their nation proud.

THE "KATRINA HOUSING TAX
RELIEF ACT OF 2007" H.R. 1562

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1562, the "Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007," a bill to extend and enhanced credit available for building low income housing under the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005. For far too long the residents of the Gulf Coast have struggled to rebuild their homes, their lives and their communities. They continue to face construction delays that could cost them the Federal assistance promised in the 2005 legislation. I want to encourage my colleagues to support this legislation that will encourage the construction of low-income housing in the areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina while assuring accountability for the tax credits.

The Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 made the affected areas eligible for larger credits to encourage building low-income housing. "GO Zone" benefits are available if the project was built and placed in service before the end of calendar year 2008. H.R. 1562 recognizes the magnitude of the struggle to rebuild the housing stock and it extends the credits for two additional years—2009 and 2010.

As the Member of Congress from North Dakota where 10 years ago the City of Grand Forks was destroyed by a flood and a fire in its aftermath, I know that government can effectively provide Americans help to rebuild our communities when a disaster strikes. The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks were fortunate to have an effective Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) under the leadership of James Lee Witt there to assist them with the momentous task of starting from the ground up after the flood waters receded. Today Grand Forks is flourishing thanks to a well coordinated effort on the part of FEMA. The rebuilding effort drew upon Federal government resources such as Community Development Block Grants which served as a catalyst to encourage accelerated investments in Grand Forks.

This bill permits Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), available because of prior liberalizations, to be combined with all of these enhanced low-income housing credits for affected areas. Under the Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act, qualified projects will not be treated as having below market Federal loans solely by reason of assistance provided under the CDBG. Since many of the GO Zone communities have lost much, if not all, of their economic base, CDBG assistance is vital and will not restrict an otherwise qualifying building from utilizing the higher 9 percent credit. This will encourage builders to deliver more housing to the Gulf Coast communities in desperate need of homes for those who want to return and help rebuild their lives.